



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2002/56
21 January 2002

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

**Effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment
of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights**

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fifth-sixth session, in resolution 2000/82, the Commission decided to appoint an independent expert on the effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, for a period of three years. It also decided to appoint to that post Mr. Fantu Cheru (United States of America).
2. The independent expert was requested to present an analytical report to the Commission, on an annual basis, on the implementation of that resolution, paying particular attention to:
 - (a) The effects of the foreign debt and the policies adopted to face them on the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular, economic, social and cultural rights in developing countries;
 - (b) Measures taken by Governments, the private sector and international financial institutions to alleviate such effects in developing countries, especially the poorest and heavily indebted countries;

(c) New developments, actions and initiatives being taken by international financial institutions, other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with respect to structural adjustment policies and human rights.

The independent expert was also requested to provide an advance copy of his annual report to the open-ended Working Group established to elaborate policy guidelines on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights in order to assist the group in the fulfilment of its mandate.

3. At its fifty-seventh session, the Commission had before it the report prepared by Mr. Cheru (E/CN.4/2001/56). In its resolution 2001/27, the Commission welcomed the report submitted by the independent expert on the effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, commended the independent expert for his valuable work and encouraged him to continue studying those issues further.

4. On 23 September 2001, Mr. Cheru submitted his resignation as independent expert. Following consultations with members of the Bureau of the fifth-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights and with regional coordinators, the Chairperson of the Commission appointed, on 28 November 2001, Mr. Bernard Andrew Nyamwaya Mudho (Kenya) as independent expert on the effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights. On 5 December 2001, Mr. Mudho confirmed his acceptance of the appointment as independent expert.

5. Subsequently, in view of his late appointment, Mr. Mudho informed the Secretariat that he would not be in a position to submit a written report to the fifth-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights, but would make an oral presentation.

